Call for proposals for *ISIS Facility Development Studentships*

***What are ISIS Facility Development Studentships?***

ISIS wishes to co-fund PhD studentship projects which include an element of facility development. Studentship projects can be within any of the science areas studied by neutron scattering or muon spectroscopy at ISIS but they must include a facility-related component such as technique, software or sample environment development which is of wider use within the facility beyond the immediate PhD student project.

***How many studentships are available?***

ISIS will make available funding for approximately 5 half studentships, some of which will be supported in partnership with the Diamond Light Source.

***Eligibility Criteria***

Any academic belonging to a UK university with the authorisation to supervise PhD students may apply. We assume that the applicant will be the university PhD supervisor. An ISIS staff scientist *must* be a co-applicant and co-supervisor, and play a full and equal role in the studentship project and supervision, including the interviewing of potential candidates.

All applicants *must* provide evidence with their application that they have already secured a 50% contribution of project costs.

The student *must* spend *at least* one year of their time at ISIS, in addition to normal short trips for experiments, during their PhD (in a schedule to be arranged by mutual agreement between the ISIS and university supervisors). Standard PhD progression qualifiers (1st / 2nd year reports etc.) may be used to assess the degree of interaction with the ISIS facility. If it is deemed insufficient interaction has occurred, STFC reserves the right to withdraw funding.

***What will ISIS provide?***

ISIS will provide up to 50% funding for each studentship. Matching funds from other sources must to be secured by the applicant and proof of funding submitted with the application.

Up to £2000 per year per student for travel and consumables (to be claimed against actual receipted expenditure) will also be available for research training expenses including the cost of travelling to and from the Rutherford Laboratory. The student will need to be registered at the host university, and ISIS will make payments to the university to cover the ISIS portion of the stipend and fees. ISIS (STFC) will set up an agreement with the host university which specifies a schedule for payments to the university to cover the ISIS contribution to the studentship, together with other details of the working arrangements for the studentship.

***How long are the studentships for?***

Studentships should start in autumn 2017 and can be for between 3 and 4 years.

***How to apply?***

The completed application form, together with a 2-page project description, letters of support and proof of co-funding should be emailed to Martin Jones (martin-owen.jones@stfc.ac.uk) by 6pm on the 16th of October.

***When should applications be made?***

The deadline for applications for this call is 16th October 2016.

***Selection criteria for ISIS to provide funding:***

The following criteria will also be used for assessment (in order of significance)

* The quality of the science.
* The quality of the technique development. The benefit of the technique development component of the project to ISIS. Appropriate examples of development projects will be of wider use to the ISIS community beyond the immediate PhD project and may focus on instrument, technique, sample environment or software development. Purely scientific projects or those with weak development aspects will be rejected.
* Partnership with the Diamond Light Source. We will look to fund up to 3 projects that link technique development across both the Diamond and ISIS facilities. Such proposals must meet all the criteria listed elsewhere but are also expected to have PhD supervisors from the University partner, the Diamond Light Source and the ISIS facility.
* Partnerships with facilities or other institutions such as the Central Laser Facility, the Research Complex at Harwell, the Harwell Imaging partnership, NPL and industrial links will be viewed favourably, especially where such links are supported through additional funding. Supporting letters from additional project partners must be included.

***Selection process:***

Proposals will be sent for external review. Once reviews have been received, a selection panel consisting of ISIS senior staff and members of the ISIS user community will rank the proposals for potential funding. In addition to the above selection criteria, ISIS will seek a breadth of science areas and partnering universities when making a final decision on which applications will be supported.

The panel will meet to review proposals soon after the application deadline, and applicants will be informed in early 2017, after which a list of funded project titles and PIs will be published.

***Proposal information:***

Applicants should provide the information requested on the application form. In addition, a description of the research project to be undertaken should be provided, taking into account the selection criteria given above. This part of the proposal should be a maximum of two pages.

**Important Dates**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Date** |
| Call for Studentships | Opens 10th August 2016 |
|  | Closes 16th October 2016 |
| *Panel Meeting* | December 2016 |
| *Announcement of Results* | January 2017 |

Application for an *ISIS Facility Development Studentship*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name of applicant (university supervisor)** |  |
| **University** |  |
| **Department** |  |
| **Postal address** |  |
| **Phone number** |  |
| **Email** |  |
| **ISIS co-supervisor** |  |
| **Diamond co-supervisor****(if applicable)** |  |
| **Proposed student start date** |  |
| **Length of studentship required** |  |
| **Funding requested from ISIS (ISIS will provide up to 50% of the costs of the studentship). Please complete the table on the right to show funding requested.** |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| £k | Yr 1 | Yr 2 | Yr 3 | Yr 4 |
| ISIS |  |  |  |  |
| *Partner* |  |  |  |  |
| T&S  |  |  |  |  |

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| **Funding source(s) for non-ISIS part of studentship. Please provide evidence of this (e.g. letter of support from host institution).** |  |
| **Is a particular student being considered for this post? If so, please provide details (name; (likely) degree result; brief statement on their suitability).** |  |
| **Please provide a short (200 word) description of the project suitable for a general audience. (For successful applications, this may be made public).** |  |
| **Please names and contact details for two potential referees.** |  |

**In addition to the above form, please provide a description of the proposed research project (maximum two pages) and a short project plan or Gantt chart. The description must include the relevance of the project to this funding scheme using the selection criteria described.**

**Please submit the application form and 2-page project description to** **martin-owen.jones@stfc.ac.uk** **by 6pm on the 16th of October 2016.**